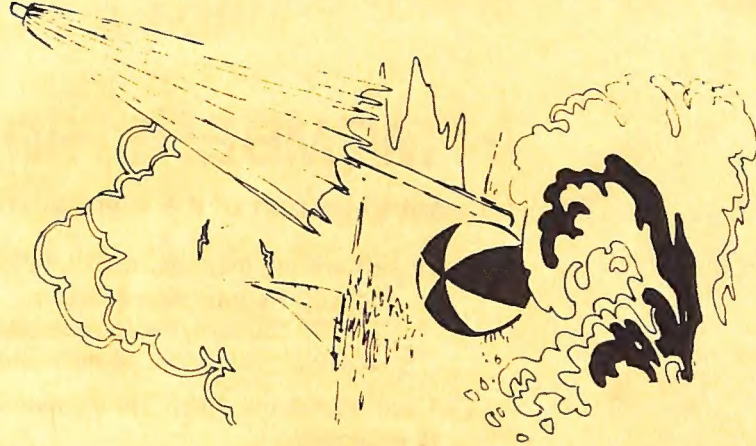


P.O. BOX 1021
Evanston, IL.
60204



MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ I (We) want to be part of the Affirmation family.

☐ Enclosed are my membership dues for 1987.

\$20.00 Regular Membership

\$10.00 Student/Fixed Income

\$30.00 Institutional Subscription Rate

☐ I will attend the 1987 Spring meeting in Nashville. My registration fee is enclosed.

\$10.00 Student/Fixed Income/Subsistence Income

\$30.00 Up to \$15,000 Annual Income

\$45.00 \$15,000 to \$30,000 Annual Income

\$60.00 \$30,000 to \$50,000 Annual Income

\$75.00 \$50,000 and Up Annual Income

☐ I am actively involved in Affirmation activities at the local, conference, or national level.

☐ I want to be a member of Affirmation but, at this time, I cannot make a financial commitment.

☐ I also want to subscribe to (or renew my subscription for) *Open Hands*, Affirmation's quarterly journal for Reconciling Congregations. Enclosed is my \$10.00 annual subscription fee.

☐ Please send me more information about:

☐ Reconciling Congregations Program

☐ Regional Organizing

☐ Preparations for General Conference 1988

☐ Affirmation Activities in my Annual Conference

☐ Other _____



Name _____

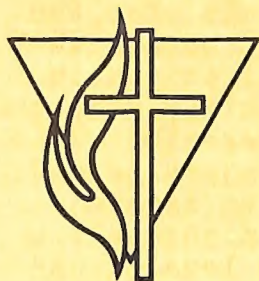
Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

Annual Conference _____

Return to: Affirmation
P.O. Box 1021
Evanston, Illinois 60204



AFFIRMATION NEWSLETTER

UNITED METHODISTS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

RECEIVED SUMMER 1987
FEB 23 2024

BY:

FALL MEETING IN ST. LOUIS

"Talking About Sex" is the program theme for the semi-annual national meeting to be held in St. Louis, September 18-20. The program committee has designed a process that will provide a safe space for group members to examine the experiences, feels and principles that affect their options and choices of sexual behavior. The program recognizes that acting on our sexuality takes a variety of forms and expresses different meanings for different people. It acknowledges the difficulty people may have, and affirms the importance of the growth that can emerge when we find ways to talk about these issues.

The business of the AFFIRMATION meeting will include final decision making and planning related to AFFIRMATION's presence at the General Conference being held in St. Louis next spring. A progress report from the Strategic Planning Committee is expected.

Members of the group will also address the needs of AFFIRMATION's two major ongoing program efforts, Regional Organizing and Reconciling Congregations. There will also be social and worship times, as usual. And no one will want to miss the mystery of the Cootie (to be revealed in Saint Louis).

A registration form can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Those planning their travel should remember that events will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday September 18 and conclude after lunch on Sunday the 20th.



LESBIAN MINISTER TO BE TRIED

A lesbian minister who came out to her Bishop and Annual Conference will face trial for "practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teaching." The Rev. Rosemary Denman, who is in the process of transferring to the Unitarian Universalist Association, had asked to be continued on a leave of absence from the time of the annual conference session earlier this year until the the transfer process is complete this fall. Annual conference officials asked instead that she withdraw voluntarily. Ms. Denman refused to withdraw and when the executive session of the annual conference refused to grant her leave of absence, she asked for trail under the provisions of Para. 2621. The trial is to begin August 24 in Dover, New Hampshire. The presiding Bishop is Neil Irons of the New Jersey Area.

Ms. Denman said that even though she is on the way out of the United Methodist Church she regards the trial as an important step in confronting the denomination with the injustice of its position on homosexuality. Because it is the first such trial in the United Methodist history, the case has already attracted substantial attention in both lesbian/gay and "mainstream" media outlets.

It seems likely that the United Methodist establishment will do all it can to limit the possiblity that the trial will address the real issues of the injustice and homophobia. It is ironic that the trial might well focus on narrow legal questions rather than the substantial ethical and theological positions that are alleged to undergird the United Methodist position on homosexual practice. Efforts to limit the impact of the trial include the choice of an auditorium that will seat only 50 spectators,



rather than a larger room. Only United Methodists may witness the trial, which will be "open" at Ms. Denman's request.

Ms. Denman has asked for the support of members of AFFIRMATION and others who share a sense of the importance of this effort. Sharing the costs associated with her witness is one way the people of AFFIRMATION can provide that support. Checks should be made payable to the Rosemary Denman Ecclestical Defense Fund and sent to [REDACTED] Falmouth, ME [REDACTED].

MARCH ON D.C.

The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights is coming to our nation's capital October 11, and AFFIRMATION will be there. The Coordinating Committee has issued an interim endorsement of the march in its own name and will recommend at the September business meeting in St. Louis that AFFIRMATION's members give the march the organization's formal endorsement.

Over 100,000 persons are expected to assemble in Washington for the march and other activities over the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

Mid-Atlantic Affirmation has offered to provide housing, to the extent possible, for members of AFFIRMATION and/or Reconciling Congregations who attend the march. Mid-Atlantic also will host a hospitality dinner and worship service Sunday evening after the march (site to be announced) and will determine an appropriate location for AFFIRMATION and RC members to assemble prior to the march Sunday morning so that we can walk together.

The march will begin at the White House and proceed to the Capitol lawn for an afternoon rally. In addition to the march, several other events are planned for the weekend. Some of these are:

- o Friday, Oct. 9, a national lobby day.

- o Saturday, Oct. 10, a mass, nonsectarian "wedding" at 2 p.m.; a Lesbian and Gay Bands of America concert and a Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner both scheduled for the evening.
- o Monday, October 12, a National Lesbian and Gay Rights Congress planning meeting.
- o Tuesday, Oct. 13, non-violent civil disobedience at the Supreme Court.

National AFFIRMATION members will be getting a separate mailing in August with further information about housing the Mid-Atlantic Affirmation is offering and about the hospitality event. Information about activities can also be obtained by writing March Committee, Mid-Atlantic Affirmation, [REDACTED]



Washington, DC [REDACTED] Any requests for housing must be received by Mid-Atlantic Affirmation by Sunday, Sept. 20 (the conclusion of the business meeting in St. Louis).

Further information about the march itself can be obtained by writing March on Washington Committee, [REDACTED] Washington D.C.

RISK FACTORS EXPOSED

Retired United Methodist Bishop Finis Crutchfield died of AIDS in Houston, Texas in May. The nature of Crutchfield's illness had been rumored for months and was confirmed in a family statement issued shortly after the Bishop's death. The statement said that the Bishop had denied sexual activity with anyone other than his wife and that he was not a drug user. It went on to report that he had for many months been involved in ministries with people who have AIDS. The statement said the family did not know how he became infected. The denial of any of the "standard" risk factors for AIDS, however, left many readers thinking Bishop Crutchfield must have contracted the infection in the course of his volunteer activities, such as providing pastoral care and doing household chores.

The result of this implication was the threat that volunteers in AIDS programs would resign because of renewed fear of infection. At least one right wing commentator was quoted as being "glad" that Bishop Crutchfield's death finally provided the evidence that the disease is casually transmissible. This evidence would provide the basis, he said, for long-needed restrictions on homosexuals.

In statements to the press, AFFIRMATION co-spokesperson Morris Floyd said that in cases like this "the real risk factor usually emerges." This proved to be true in Bishop Crutchfield's case, where a variety of persons confirmed the "open secret" of his same sex sexual activity, according to reports published in the Houston Chronicle and elsewhere.



WORK GROUP MEETS

The Regional Organizing Work Group will meet Friday, September 18, 1987 from 10AM to 4PM in St Louis at our Fall meeting site. The purpose of the work group meeting is to plan future directions for Regional Organizing. The original intention was to hold a training event, but the group has decided more planning is appropriate before setting training and other events. All, who are especially interested in our Regional Organizing plans, are invited to join the group on Friday, September 18.

EMPOWERING WEEKEND

"Refreshing Our Spirits" is the working title of a weekend retreat AFFIRMATION will be sponsoring for folks in the Northeastern area of the U.S. on November 6-8 at Watson Homestead outside of Corning, New York.

Led by Dr. Mary Hunt of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (W.A.T.E.R), the weekend will focus on preparing ourselves for the journey of the General Conference—the ways that event will focus issues for us and on us"—as well as the time after that during which there will be turmoil, misunderstanding and hostility.

Letters of invitation and registration forms will be sent to AFFIRMATION members and friends in the Northeast during September. While all the details are not final, we anticipate that registration (including room and meals) will be in the \$35 to \$40 range per person. Registration for the event will be limited.

This will be an important time in the life and the development of our AFFIRMATION community. Come join us for an empowering but restful weekend in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains this fall. Mark the dates on your calendar now! And watch your mailbox for details.



MOVING?

BE SURE TO TAKE US WITH YOU!!!!!!

Affix old mailing label here

Affirmation ☐

Open Hands ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: Affirmation
P.O. Box 1021
Evanston, IL 60204

REGIONAL ORGANIZING

OKLAHOMA AFFIRMATION

Highlights of the OKC group's summer include an excursion to Kingfisher, meeting to share experiences and histories at Clegg Memorial UMC with members of the Dallas/Fort Worth group, program topics ranging from Homophobia to New Testament Bible Study, and viewing the Reconciling Congregation video. Further strengthening ties across Red River, the group joined Dallas/Fort Worth Affirmation for a day of picnicing, fellowship, swimming, skiing and informal worship at Lake Murray in southern Oklahoma. Come grow with the group as it meets alternating Saturday evenings for potluck and Sunday evenings for fellowship. Affirmation Oklahoma

██████████ Oklahoma City, OK ██████████ ██████████

INDIANAPOLIS AFFIRMATION

Plans for summer scheduling and a desire for outdoor togetherness culminated in an evening of work, food and fun at Geist Lake. The Indianapolis group envisions continuing involvement in gay/lesbian community outreach and education and enlightenment of Indiana Methodism. Contact Marcia K. at ██████████ Indianapolis, IN ██████████

CHICAGO AFFIRMATION

The Chicago group has had a busy summer: attending the Interfaith service and marching in the parade during Gay/Lesbian Pride Week, premiering the Reconciling Congregation video "We've A Story To Tell" at Irving Park UMC, visiting Dekalb for a group meeting and impactin the Northern Illinois Conference through singing and wearing arm bands as the ordained ministers exited from the executive session as a witness to "mourning the discrimination caused by homophobia." P.O. Box 1021 Evanston, IL 60204 or call Annette ██████████ David ██████████ or Michael at ██████████



NEBRASKA AFFIRMATION

The Nebraska group is sponsoring two fundraisers for the Reconciling Congregation Program-Ahust 9th at Aldersgate UMC, Lincoln, and August 23rd at Pearl Memorial UMC, Omaha. Continuing with regular monthly meetings alternating between Lincoln and Omaha, the group invites all kindred souls to join them. ██████████ Lincoln, NE ██████████

DALLAS/FORT WORTH AFFIRMATION

Razzle Dazzle Dallas, the Gay Pride Week party which drew 6,200 provided the group with a chance to evangelize, show off its talents and raise some money. Regular potluck meetings have featured Roger Kruse of the National Coordinating Committee, Rev. Bill Bryan and Rev. Jackie Ponder. The United Methodist Men's Chorus (Affirmation chorus) performed for Dignity and the MCC congregation. Lake and ski parties and the joint picnic with the Oklahoma City and the MCC congregation. Lake ski parties and the joint picnic with the Oklahoma City group provided respites from the heat. [REDACTED] Dallas, TX [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

BAY AREA AFFIRMATION

Affirmation members were a visible presence during Annual Conference in June. Marching in the Reconciling Congregation section of the Gay/Lesbian Pride parade they helped to provide a witness of the church in the Gay/Lesbian community. In October they will be co-sponsoring a talk by Virginia Ramey Mollenkott with Integrity, More Light, and Lutherans Concerned. For more information about the group call [REDACTED]



METRO ST. LOUIS AFFIRMATION

Gay Pride Week activities-marching in the parade, staffing a booth at the picnic-kicked off the St. Louis group's summer activities. In addition to its regular meetings at Shaw UMC, the group viewed the video of the Reconciling Congregation Program, met with the Missouri East Chapter of MFSA, and picnicked with Dignity and the MCC congregation. All of this in addition to preparing for the Fall Meeting of National AFFIRMATION-which everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact the group at [REDACTED] St. Louis, MO [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]



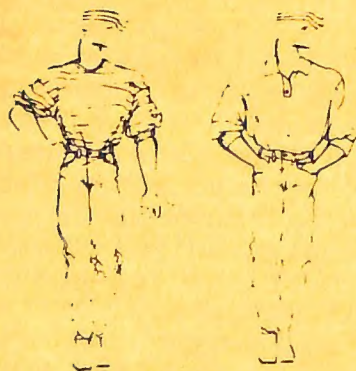
MID-ATLANTIC AFFIRMATION

Repeating their win of two years ago, Mid-Atlantic Affirmation's entry in this year's Gay Pride Day parade on June 14 won 1st place honors. The beautifully executed float was based on the theme "That's What Friends Are For." It featured a rainbow, numerous butterflys, and an assortment of Affirmation members dressed in authentic animal costumes. Weekly meetings for worship and fellowship are held 6:00 p.m. at Dumbarton UMC. Contact the group at [REDACTED] Washington, D.C. or [REDACTED]

REGIONAL ORGANIZING CON'T

SEATTLE AFFIRMATION

Affirmation/Seattle, Wallingford and Capitol Hill UMC's marched, complete with banners, in the Gay Pride Parade. The group participated in the Gay/Lesbian Interfaith Breakfast and staffed an information booth at the Seattle Gay Pride Festival. The Fourth of July campout at Newhalen was a "torrential success!" The group was instrumental in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference voting for a second annual AIDS ministry offering Sunday Nov. 8th. Other supportive petitions headed to General Conference included removal of the funding ban and removal of the amendment to Paragraph 71 F (considering homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching). Join in for potlucks and business meetings. Affirmation/Seattle, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Seattle WA [REDACTED]



MINNESOTA AFFIRMATION

The Minnesota Fellowship participated in "What It Means To Be Gay" an adult education seminar at Wesley UMC, cosponsored the adult education seminar at Wesley UMC, cosponsored the Pride Week Worship Service in Loring Park, and marched in the Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade. The Heritage Sunday Dinner at Wesley UMC provided to be a successful fundraiser for ongoing Affirmation activities. Staffing a booth at the Minnesota Annual Conference meetings, serving coffee at Wesley UMC and participation in many varied community events are ways in which the group is reaching out. Call for information: Mike [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Tim [REDACTED]
or Wesley UMC [REDACTED]

RECONCILING CONVOCAATION VIDEO

As of this printing, the video on the Conference of Reconciling Congregations has been shown in 15 cities across our nation. Contributions and pledges of \$7000.00 have been made and we expect the more polished version of the video to be available by late September.

Anyone wishing to use the video to promote the Reconciling Congregation Program should write to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Nashville, TN [REDACTED]

-Mark Bowman

GIVINGS UP EXPENSES UP

With more than a quarter of the year remaining, income and expenditures for National AFFIRMATION are already running neck and neck with our previous record highs for the entire year of 1986.

From January through August, members and friends have given National AFFIRMATION more than \$27,000 -- just \$312 less than was given in all of 1986. So far this year we have spent more than \$30,000, surpassing by \$940 the expenses for all of last year.

In addition to our usual national Spring meeting and publication of Open Hands, the financial record this year includes many new activities -- for example,

- *A national conference of the Reconciling Congregation Program:
- *Publication of a brochure explaining the purpose of AFFIRMATION:
- *A regional organizing event in Kansas City for the Mid-west and deposit for another regional organizing event in the East; and
- *A family reunion held in California in July.

This is a financial record of which we all can be proud, for it testifies to the growth of National AFFIRMATION activities. Yet it should be clear from the budget report (published on the next page) that the last quarter of 1987 is

critical if our goals are to be met. We have major fund-raising activities planned -- and these activities need our serious support.



ADOPT A DELEGATE

The Chicago Affirmation group is adopting a delegate to General Conference by buying a gift subscription of Open Hands for that delegate. You or your local Affirmation group or Reconciling Congregation can adopt your own delegate to General Conference by supplying a subscription to Open Hands and keeping that delegate in touch with Lesbian and Gay concerns.

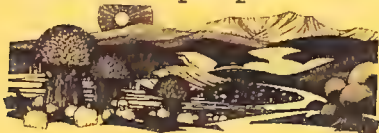
For more information write to Bill Madsen at [REDACTED] Washington D.C. [REDACTED] or calling [REDACTED]

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Articles for the next newsletter must be sent to me by November 1. Please mark your calendar now. Send all items for the newsletter to Fritz Schultz, [REDACTED] San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]

GROUPS MAKE DIFFERENCE AT CONFERENCE

The level of participation by open lesbians and gay men at this year's conference was the greatest ever! Annual conference was held in Sacramento, California. The pre-conference issue of the Reporter called "the gay issue" a major item on the conference agenda, and it was! This year a major difference was made by all the justice seeking groups i.e. Affirmation, Committee on Homophobia, Board of Church and Society, M.F.S.A., Reconciling Churches, in that they all coordinated their efforts in working together and effectively dealing with the "Good News" people.



Northern California-Nevada Conference voted to become the third Reconciling Conference by a 2 to 1 vote! This action confirmed a similiar action taken by the Conference in 1983 when it stated that "our conference will be intentional in including lesbians and gay men in the life of the church." Those words were added to the Standing Rules. The Reconciling Church program is exciting in this conference with seven local churches now part of the program and we expect that figure to more than double by next year!

For the third year Affirmation and the Committee on Homophobia sponsored a luncheon together. We used this time to share our local stories of reconciliation and to develop strategies for the conference floor.

The "gay issue" was complicated by the many petitions that were direct opposites. On all matters except the ordination question, the vote was 2 to 1 to change restrictive language. The vote on ordination lost by the same figure.

Two significant items were: 1) a resurrected piece of legislation from '83 asking General Conference to create a Homophobia Study Group was passed this time around. The major difference was the Council of Bishops are asked to name participants after consulting with "Good News" and AFFIRMATION. 2) a special AIDS WORKING GROUP was created for Annual Conference under the Division of Health & Welfare. This new group was asked to be separate from the Committee on Homophobia to help people realize the that AIDS is not a white male gay disease. Several members of Affirmation are members of this new group. Both groups will coordinate their efforts in dealing with the health crisis.

The 1987 Annual Conference was different because of the visible presence of our people. The love and support from our extended family was a real vital factor in that difference.

difference con't

Our General Conference delegation is one of the most inclusive delegations that we've sent! Many will be supportive of our issues. On the Jurisdictional delegation it is noteworthy to mention that Rev. Virginia Hilton was elected.

The solid work of previous years laid a good foundation for the many accomplishments of this year. We've a long road to travel, but there has been growth and excitement to encourage us along the way.

Following adjournment of conference, the Conference Councils on Ministeries met in early July. The COM Committee on Homophobia had been wanting to change its name for sometime, so following the vote of Annual Conference, the Council on Ministeries approved a name change to the Reconciling Conference Committee.

-Jim Scurlock.



NATIONAL AFFIRMATION - INCOME AND EXPENSES, JANUARY - JULY, 1987

07/31/87	Income			Expenses		
	Budget	Actual	Over (under)	Budget	Actual	Remaining (excess)
Membership and organization						
Pledges	6,000	2,025	(3,975)			
Membership dues	5,000	2,725	(2,275)	1,265	0	
Other contributions	500	30	(470)			
Fundraising	6,000	0	(6,000)	760	0	760
Newsletter publication				2,000	1,161	839
Communications				2,500	1,065	1,435
Telephone, postage, etc.				1,250	384	866
Coordinating Committee				1,800	1,785	15
Miscellaneous	0	126	126	1,000	410	590
Sub-total	17,500	4,906	(12,594)	10,575	4,805	5,770
National gatherings						
Spring meeting	2,500	3,872		2,500	1,923	
Fall meeting	2,500			2,500		
Family reunion	2,250	393		2,500	763	
Sub-total	7,250	4,265	(2,985)	7,500	2,687	4,813
National programs and publications						
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Conference Activities	1,500	0	(1,500)	1,500	15	1,485
Regional Organizing Program	0	110	110	2,500	765	1,735
Reconciling Congregation Prog	19,950	9,848	(10,102)	19,650	13,693	5,957
Open Hands	19,500	8,609	(10,891)	22,300	8,391	13,909
Sub-total	40,950	18,567	(22,383)	45,950	22,864	23,086
1987 TO-DATE TOTALS	65,700	27,738	(37,962)	64,025	30,356	33,669

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Judy Cayot

Albany, CA

Roger Kruse

Mesa, AZ

Annette Oliver

Chicago, IL

D.J. Porter

New Hope, PA

Maggie Roe

Lincoln, NE

Brad Rymph

Washington, DC

Tim Tyner

Dallas, TX

Mary Gaddis

Holy City, CA

Mike Underhill

Chicago, IL



AFFIRMATION SPOKESPERSONS

Morris Floyd

Minneapolis, MN

Mary Gaddis

Holy City, CA

REGISTRATION FEE: Student/fixed income/subsistence income \$10
Up to \$15,000 a year \$30
\$15,000 to \$30,000 \$45
\$30,000 to \$50,000 \$60
\$50,000 and above \$70

REGISTRATION FORM

"TALKING ABOUT SEX"
SEMI-ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING
OF AFFIRMATION
SEPTEMBER 18-20
ST. LOUIS

(Please send this form in as soon as possible)

Name _____ Home Phone (opt.) _____
Address _____ Work Phone (Opt.) _____
_____ Zip Code _____

Please include your registration fee payable to "National Affirmation"

I. Please check one of the following:

- _____ I am coming to St. Louis. My registration is enclosed.
_____ I am coming to St. Louis and will send my registration in by September 8.
_____ I cannot come to St. Louis but want to enclose a contribution.

II. If you are coming to St. Louis, please give us the following information:

_____ I am arriving on _____ (please give date) and will need housing in a private home from _____ (date) to _____.
_____ I prefer a non-smoking home (please check).
_____ If arriving by air please list the airline, flight number, time and date _____

_____ Please indicate if arriving by car.
_____ Please indicate if you have any physical or allergy issues (such as avoiding steps, cats, dogs, as well as dietary needs or any other special needs) _____

_____ Please indicate if you want any information on hotels.
_____ Do you have a preference for a roommate _____
_____ Please indicate if you would like to sing in the choir.
_____ What part do you sing _____

Registration should go to Affirmation/St. Louis, [REDACTED] St. Louis, MO [REDACTED] by September 8. If you have any question about the from or other stuff related to logistics, you might want to check with Steve Dunn in St. Louis [REDACTED]

